

Iowa USDA Foods Council Meeting Minutes

The Iowa USDA Foods Council met on Friday, October 11, 2013 at the Waukee Community School District's Main Office. Council members in attendance were: Linda Mitchell, Mary Bellwood, Marie Miller, Nancy Hogstad, Amy A'Hearn, Cindy Smith, Kathy McGuire, Kathy Simmerman, and Jessie Keuhl. Not in attendance was Lynn Large. Sarah White and Jill Stuecker from the Iowa Department of Education also attended. Visitor Willow Dye from the IAEP was in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Nancy Hogstad. Meeting minutes from the April 26, 2013 meeting were read and approved by Kathy McGuire and seconded by Kathy Simmerman. Introductions of new members followed. Amy A'Hearn was appointed as new Council Secretary in replacement of Lisa Nolting.

Jill Stuecker gave an NOI update. Iowa has 130 schools participating; 30-35 of those are new this year. Current budget is 3.9 million for the program. Current year challenges were discussed which included distribution, shortage of product, product quality issues and schools not bidding items. A NOI Work group has been formed that includes Ann Feilmann, Sarah White, Jill Stuecker, Johnston CSD, West Des Moines CSD and Cedar Rapids CSD. The group's goal is to:

Establish best practices that allow School Food Authorities (SFA's) to compete all end-products available in the NOI program. This process will include the following objectives:

- The process will be identified, and all players will know and understand it
- A mechanism will be developed to make the process known and understood for all players
- The process will ensure that USDA ordering timelines are adhered to
- SFA's will be equipped with information to make the best use of their dollars
- SFA's will get an NOI price that is fair and competitive

Additional NOI discussion was on how the commodity allocation does not show dollars allocated to NOI or DoD. Individuals are having problems with K12foodservice and processorlink websites. Individuals struggle as the sites are not user friendly.

Jill and Sarah gave a website update. With funding from the ART2 grant, a new website for NOI/DoD/commodities will be made. The "dream" site will be able to pull together information from k12foodservice, processorlink and have current allocations including those to NOI and DoD. Website is slated to be completed in about 8 months.

The USDA Foods Show is scheduled for February 4th at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, IA. There is no weather make-up date. Discussion is to alternate start times to decrease congestion at booths. Discussion also surrounded having presentations and where they will be held. The group gave helpful tips to discuss with brokers before shows: only bring those products that are NOI, have product catalog for items shown and charge brokers for slots. The food show is planned as the kick-off for NOI allocations from FY15. The plan is to have a 2nd round allocation again this year. Allocations are slated to be due the end of February and then 2nd round due mid to end of March.

A DoD update was given by Jill. Due to the government shutdown there have been a few changes related to a different log-in website and the FFAVORS help desk is shut down. In Iowa there are 150 schools participating, 4 were rejected due to location. Current budget is 2.7 million and 2.587 million has been allocated. Last year's budget was entirely spent. The DoD contract was rebid and Loffredo was selected as the vendor for the next 5 year cycle. A question was raised as to whether large schools could have more than 1 delivery per week.

Patti Delger, Team Nutrition Co-Chair, presented on a partnership between the USDA Foods program and Team Nutrition. Team Nutrition was approved for a grant to promote and show the value of USDA foods by developing recipes for those items. Patti came to the group looking for input regarding what USDA Foods items they should focus on and to solicit 5 schools to volunteer to test recipes. Team Nutrition will contract with a local chef who has school foodservice experience. The group was interested in recipes for a variety of beans, green leafy vegetables, dipping sauces for vegetables as well as rubs for veggies.

Next USDA Foods Council meeting is set for January 10th at the Des Moines Public School District Central Kitchen.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Amy A'Hearn